

If you do not wish to receive my monthly newsletter, please send me an email.

PFM RAMBLINGS

NEW DISCOVERY



FANTASTIC NEW BONSAI DISCOVERY: BONSAI 3-2-1

No need to find that perfect ancient yamadori in the wild!

Use BONSAI 3-2-1 and create your own!

To create bonsai we work hard at tricking Mother Nature to develop the best bonsai possible. We strive to make our bonsai the oldest looking trees possible. This takes a great deal of time and effort.

Have you ever seen an idea tree in nature but it was 20 feet tall? You take a photo of the wonder and hope one day to create a bonsai that looks like it.

Using new BONSAI 3-2-1 you have the option of actually using that wonderful tree!

How? It is simple, in spring simply inoculate the soil around the tree with BONSAI 3-2-1. Saturate the soil well. During the next year the tree will shrink to 1/10th of its size. If needed BONSAI 3-2-1 can be used again the following spring. When applied at the beginning of a growing season it will shrink the tree again to 1/10th of the size of last season. Even the leaves will reduce in size. Think of the possibilities!! One liter bottles available only at the studio on April 1.



*MY GREENHOUSE IS
OVERFLOWING WITH
GOODIES WANTING TO BE
STYLED. COME AND VISIT.*

APRIL...THE WORK MONTH FOR BONSAI IN THE GREAT NORTH EAST

Now that I have made you smile, let's get down to the real world of creating our bonsai

In the bonsai world spring is the time for everything. We transplant, we style, we fertilize, we trim, we put our trees back in their outdoor homes. And perhaps even attend a convention like Midatlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival this month.

I am writing this newsletter at the end of February since I know I will not have time later in March to do it. This week is seeing another Polar Vortex as the news is now calling the deep cold of winter. It is hard to predict if April will allow

transplanting or not. After all newly transplanted roots should not be subjected to freezes.

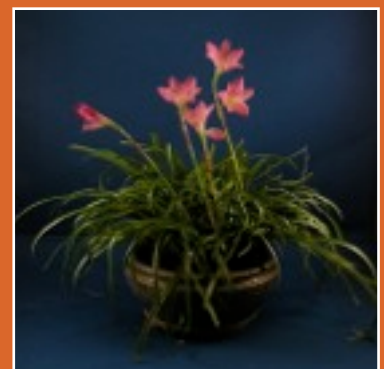
Once the temperatures allow us to transplant, get started. I hope April will work but often we need to wait until May. Just one of the joys of doing bonsai in the great northeast!

Take care to check the light conditions of your growing area. Sometimes the growth of landscaping changes the light conditions without us paying attention.

Meanwhile, if the temperatures are not right for repotting, spend your time preparing benches and getting the last of the wiring done.



SPRING



Shitakusa

To compliment your bonsai, be sure to raise some accent plants this year. Have fun with usual pottery and wild plants. Learn the rules of display,

<KUSAMONA

COTONEASTER



Artist Morten Albek Mame-bonsai.



Artist; Harry Harrington



artist: Jan Hettick



Cotoneaster (/kə'toʊni:'æstər) is a large genus of flowering plants belonging to the Rose family. It has both spreading and upright forms. Varying species are hardy from zone 4 to zone 7. Care must be taken to check on the specific hardiness of the species being used. The prostrate species are mostly alpine plants growing at high altitude in the Himalayas, while the larger species occur in scrub and woodland gaps at lower altitudes. They are capable of developing interesting gnarled trunks with time. When looking for a specimen in nurseries, look for single trunks as new branches readily develop. You can remove all branches and start over. Since they do not increase in girth well in potted culture, to develop girth plant in the ground for a few years if needed/



Habit

The shoots are dimorphic, with long shoots producing structural branch growth, and short shoots bearing the flowers; this pattern often developing a 'herringbone' form of branching. The leaves are arranged alternately long, ovate to lanceolate, entire; both evergreen and deciduous species occur. The flowers are produced in late spring through early summer, solitary or in corymbs of up to 100 together. The flower is either fully open or has its five petals half open. They may be any shade from white through creamy white to light pink to dark pink to almost red. The fruit is a small pome 0.20–0.47 inches in diameter, pink or bright red, orange or even maroon or black when mature, containing one to three (rarely up to five) seeds. The fruit is in perfect proportion to the foliage for bonsai. Fruit on some species stays on until the following year so that you plant may have both fruit and flower at the same time.



Bonsai owned by Isamu Murata Japanese teacher in the nursery Kiukaen

Pruning and styling

Although early spring is the best time for the drastic pruning that may be done on cotoneaster, the wonder of the species is that you can do major pruning any time of year. Layer development is achieved by trimming each new growth branch to two leaves just above the internode. This species grows multiple trunks so look carefully to find single or perhaps dual trunks. The plant puts out suckers, cut these off as they appear to direct all the energy of the plant into the bonsai.

Growing Medium and Repotting

Grow in a mixture that will retain moisture without being wet or soggy. The best medium has a good organic portion. It requires excellent drainage. Although mature plants can tolerate drought in plantings, it is not wise to test this in bonsai potted culture.

Repot each year. Do not completely bare root the plant. Remove soil from one third to one half of the soil mass at each repotting.

Fertilize regularly with your favorite type. Adding iron to the mix assures a good green color. Super phosphate added each month increases flowering and fruit.

Disease and pests

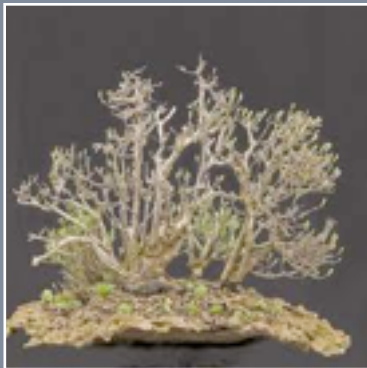
Cotoneaster are susceptible to fireblight, leaf spot and canker. Keep designs open to allow air to flow through. Remove dead leaves immediately.

INFORMATION from varying notes taken over the years, the internet and filtered through experience. Photographs from the internet.

From Art of Bonsai web site shohin contest



SLAB PLANTING



These are examples of slab plantings found on the internet.

Sometimes a natural slab simply works better than a pot

Some bonsai designs show such a natural look that putting them into a formal pot is plain wrong. For these bonsai consider a real or man made rock slab.

Slabs work for single and group plantings as well as saikei. In this article will describe the method of attaching the designed bonsai to the slab. Normal methods of design should be used to construct the bonsai.

The one issue with a slab is its weight. In the first method to be described here, the bonsai will be developed on a base that can be removed from the slab to provide easier winter storage.

This method will work well for smooth surfaced slabs. The second method will described is

used for rough surfaced rocks. In the case of rough surfaces, the bonsai is attached directly to the rock.

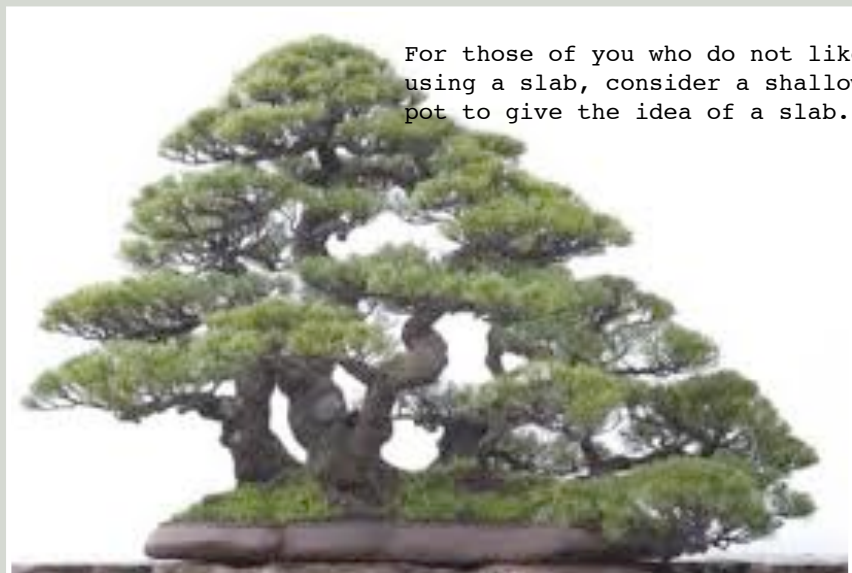
FOR SMOOTH SLABS

Draw the shape of the soil area of the slab on a sheet of plastic needlepoint. Be sure to use one with a larger grid to allow for drainage. Cut the plastic to the shape. Plan out the placement of your tree or trees.

To fasten the trees to the grid form aluminum wires as shown.



Insert the wire through the screen from the bottom side at the places you wish the trees and accents to be attached. (note that not all accents will require wires). Larger trees may require a pair of wires



For those of you who do not like using a slab, consider a shallow pot to give the idea of a slab.

Turn the mesh right side up. It may now be attached to the slab using one of two methods. A set of attachment wires may be super glued to the slab to tie in the mesh.

Or once the planting is established and is one soil mass, you can simply use some muck in spring as a bonding agent between the mesh and the rock.

After the mesh is attached it is time to attach the trees using the wires that are set up for the purpose. First put a layer of bonsai medium at the site of the attachment points. If some topographic height is needed for the design, then use a mound of muck at the point before adding in some bonsai medium. At this point those who use a timed release fertilizer may add in some along with some iron and mycorrhizae spores. Place the tree(s) and fasten them in. Now add in bonsai medium all around the trees within the muck boarder. Use chopsticks to work the soil in. Place any accents and water gently. Additional muck may be needed for erosion control. Finish with good mossing. Moss lives well applied to the muck and its aides in erosion control.

FOR ROUGH SURFACED ROCKS

Rough surface rocks add great interest to a planting. They can be very creative in shape and add to the design.

After designing the trees to be fastened to the rock they will need to be secured to the rock. The rough surfaces can be a challenge for this. Years ago we used lead shot to secure wires into the rock but modern methods make the task much easier (and kinder to the environment).

First clean the area well. The use of a shop vacuum cleaner helps remove all debris. Do not wet the area.

Form aluminum wire loops. For larger trees use two wires. Be sure that the loop part will fit into the space for the tree.

Using a solid epoxy putty work the two parts of the epoxy together until the color is uniform (heat will be released). Mash a lump of this putty over the wire loop and into the area on the rock. Allow to set for 5 to 10 minutes before fastening the trees.



Then plant the trees as described for flat slabs. If planting on vertical surfaces, you can use additional wires to fasten a basket of large screen or mesh to hold bonsai medium to the rock.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PFM BONSAI. All workshops are limited to 8 people UNLESS LESS ARE INDICATED
MONDAY BONSAI STUDY GROUP IS AN INFORMAL EVENING OF PIZZA AND PLAY WITH OUR TREES AND IS OPEN TO ALL. PLEASE EMAIL SO WE CAN HAVE ENOUGH PIZZA FOR ALL
IF YOU NEED SUPPLIES, CALL THE STUDIO, WE ARE HERE MOST DAYS 518 882 1039

DATE	Morning	Afternoon
April 5	Introduction Class 9-11 AM	Intermediate Class 15 1-3
April 6	Open workshop...come and work, wire, repot ..whatever needs done	Studio also open for shopping
April 12	Introduction Class 10 AM	FOREST WORKSHOP TBD depending on weather
April 13	FOREST WORKSHOP TBD depending on weather	
April 25-27	Studio Closed....come to the Midatlantic Bonsai Societies	Spring Festival in East Hanover NJ
May 3	MAY WORKSHOPS TBD	DEPENDING ON WEATHER
May 4	Amur Maple Mame/Shohin Workshop \$95 including tree	
May 10-11	Advance Study Group with Ted Matson	Studio closed except for study group members
May 17	TBD	
May 18	MHBS meeting Demo and WS guests welcome See MHBS website for details	Guest Artist: Mary Madison
May 24-25	WILD BONSAI WEEKEND with Mark Arpeg	Do you love working with collected materials? Save the dates for this event.
May 31-June 1	Frank Mihalic Design workshop weekend	Bring your trees and get design help from Frank \$85 per day

BONSAI EVENTS TO ATTEND



MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2014

Spring Festival April 25-27

There is still time to register

<http://midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/fescurr.htm>

BCI in Australia

August 23, 2014

<http://goldcoast2014.bonsai-bci.com>

4th National Bonsai Exhibition

http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012_national_exhibition/index.html



ABS/GSBF

Bonsai Visions of the West

October 31, 2014

Sacramento, CA

<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/convention/>

**ABS TOO FAR TO GO IN 2014?
PLAN ON ABS 2015 IN BALTIMORE MARYLAND**

pfm bonsai studio supports

Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society <http://mohawkhudsonbonsai.org>

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies - www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com

American Bonsai Society - www.absbonsai.org

Bonsai Clubs International - www.bonsai-bci.com

National Bonsai Foundation - www.bonsai-nbf.org

Please visit www.pfmbonsai.com for current happenings at the studio

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pfm bonsai studio

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